



Welcome Public Scoping Meeting

Oil Shale and Tar Sands Allocation Programmatic
Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) April and
May, 2011

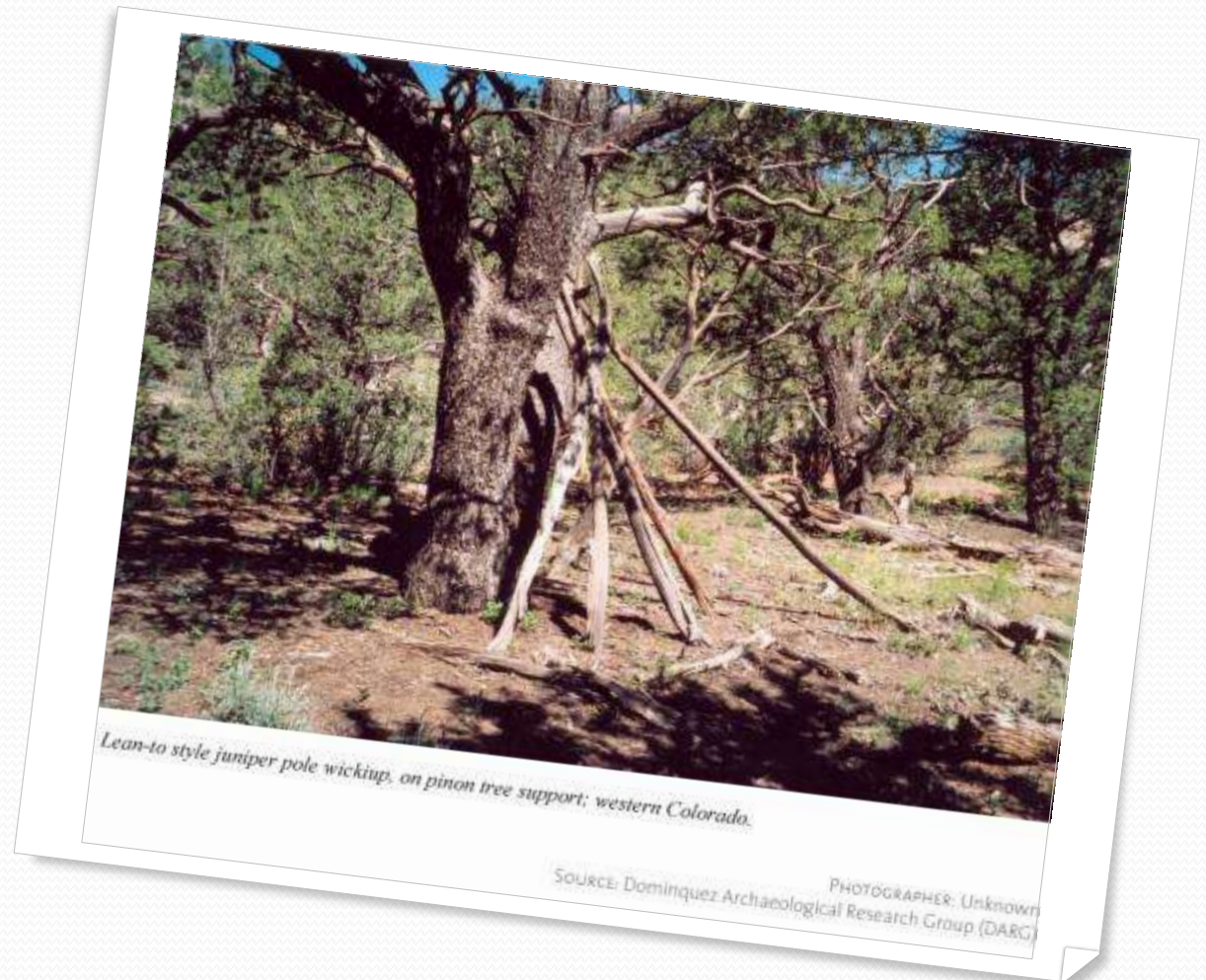
OSTS PEIS 2012



- The BLM is taking a fresh look at the previous allocation decisions to consider what public lands are best suited for oil shale and tar sands development.
- This planning initiative will also allow the Department to resolve a lawsuit challenging the current allocation decisions.

Cultural Resources

The BLM invites comments on potential resource issues that should be discussed in the NEPA analysis, including input on issues pertaining to historic and cultural resources within the areas proposed for land use plan amendment. Such information will inform consultation activities the BLM will conduct in furtherance of the United States' government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes.



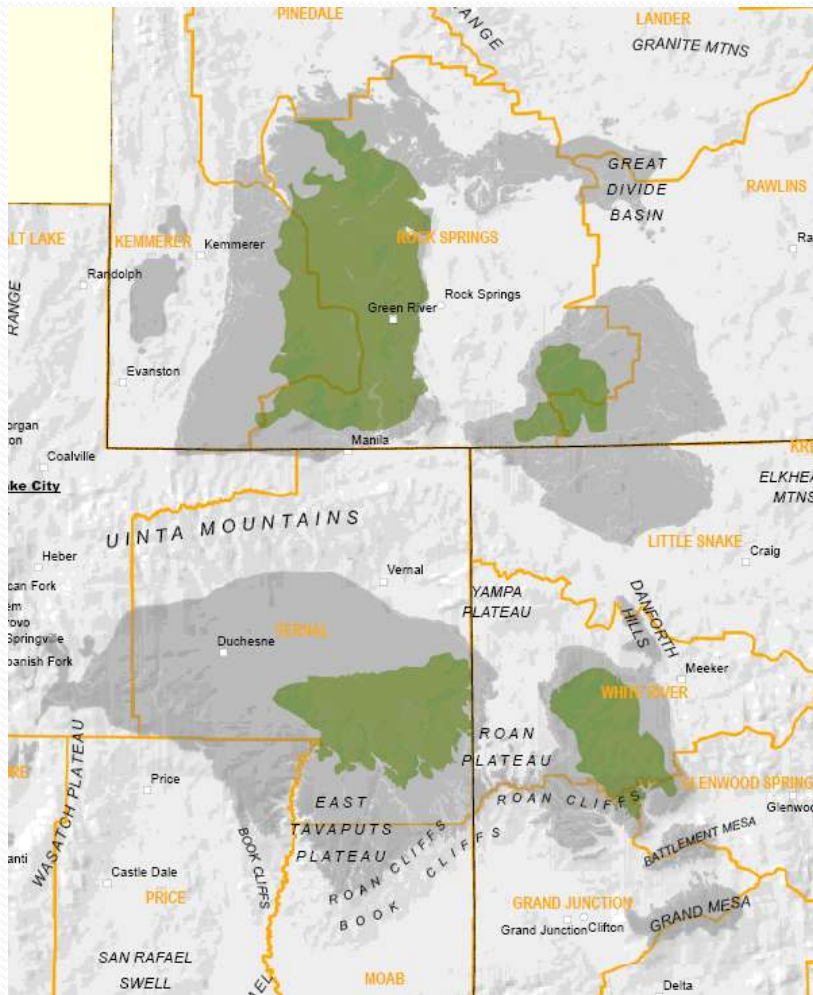
Lean-to style juniper pole wickiup, on pinon tree support; western Colorado.

SOURCE: Dominguez Archaeological Research Group (DARG) PHOTOGRAPHER: Unknown

Research, Demonstration & Development (RD&D) Leases

- The planning process will not intrude upon efforts of RD&D lessees to prove the economic viability and environmental acceptability of their technologies.
- Holders of RD&D leases will continue to pursue their efforts.
- The Department of Interior retains the discretion to issue new RD&D leases.

Defining the Oil Shale Leasing Study Area



- The gray areas represent the 2008 maximum extent of the Green River Formation Basins.
- Study area focuses on evaluating allocations for leasing within the most geologically prospective oil shale resources (shown in green) because they are likely to be the first targets for development.
 - In Colorado and Utah: yield is >25 gal/ton and thickness is >25 ft.
 - In Wyoming: yield is >15 gal/ton and thickness is >15 ft.

Field Office	Existing Land Use Plan
<i>Colorado</i>	
Glenwood Springs	Glenwood Springs RMP (1988, as amended by the Roan Plateau Plan Amendment, 2007)
Grand Junction	Grand Junction RMP (1987)
White River	White River RMP (1997, as amended by the Roan Plateau Plan Amendment, 2007)
<i>Utah</i>	
Monticello	Monticello Field Office RMP (2008)
Price	Price Field Office RMP (2008)
Richfield	Richfield Field Office RMP (2008)
Vernal	Vernal Field Office RMP (2008)
<i>Wyoming</i>	
Kemmerer	Kemmerer RMP (2010)
Rawlins	Rawlins RMP (2008)
Rock Springs	Green River RMP (1997, as amended by the Jack Morrow Hills Coordinated Activity Plan, 2006)

Identification of Issues

After the BLM has gathered public input on issues the PEIS should address, we will categorize comments as follows:

1. Issues to be resolved in the PEIS and planning process;
2. Issues outside the scope of the PEIS and planning process (these may include, but are not limited to, issues to be resolved through regulation, other policy initiatives or administrative action(s)).

Preliminary Scoping Issues

- Water quality and quantity
- Socio-economic concerns
- Ecological concerns – plants and animals
- Air quality
- Cumulative effects
- Additional concerns?



How to Provide Scoping Comments

There are 3 ways to provide comments:

- Via the project website: **<http://blm.gov/st5c>**
- By regular mail
- In person at the scoping meetings

Oil Shale Settlement Agreement

- No later than 120 days after agreement is effective--
Publish a Notice of Intent (NOI) to consider amending each of the land use planning decisions made in the 2008 OSTs Record of Decision
- The BLM will analyze the environmental effects of at least the 3 following alternatives:

Oil Shale Settlement Agreement

1. The NOI will propose to analyze the environmental effects of an alternative that would exclude from commercial oil shale or tar sands leasing:
 - Areas the BLM identifies as having wilderness characteristics
 - The Adobe Town “Very Rare or Uncommon” area
 - Core or priority sage grouse habitat
 - All areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs)
 - All areas identified as excluded from Alternative C in the 2008 OSTs PEIS

Oil Shale Settlement Agreement con't.

2. At least one alternative that removes some, but not all, of the lands described above.
3. The “no action” alternative. A “no action” alternative is to continue to implement the management directions in the land use plan (in this case, the 2008 OSTs Record of Decision).

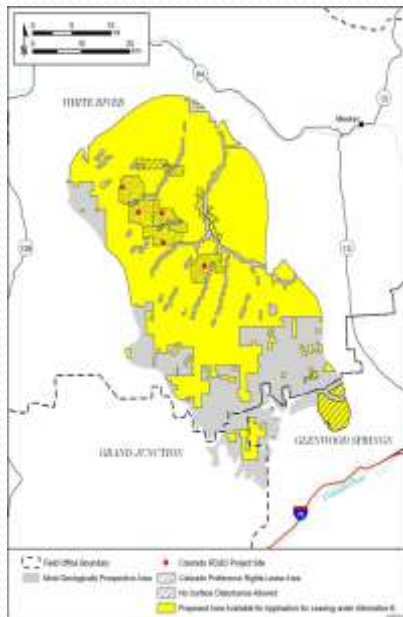
No Action Alternative – Oil Shale

Oil Shale

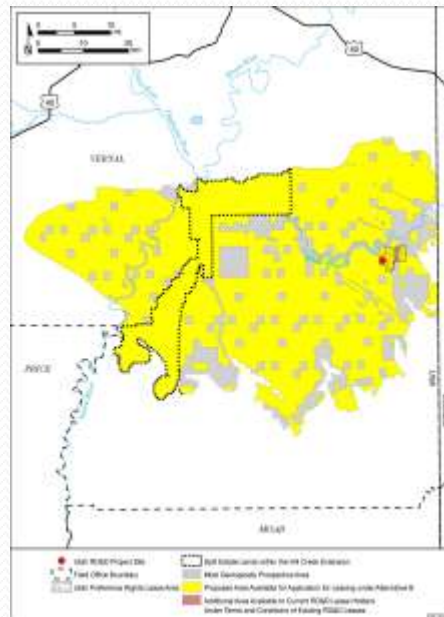
- All public land not excluded within the Study Area will be available for future leasing consideration
- Designates the largest amount of lands available for application to lease ~2.0 million acres
- Will identify data gaps that must be filled in order to support future NEPA analysis
- Split estate lands in the Hill Creek Extension of the Uinta and Ouray Reservation will be available future leasing consideration
- A qualitative analysis of the impacts is presented. BLM made the assumption that the oil shale would be produced using 1 of 3 technologies – an underground mining, a surface mining and an in-situ operation

Oil Shale – 2008 Approved Land Use Plan Amendments

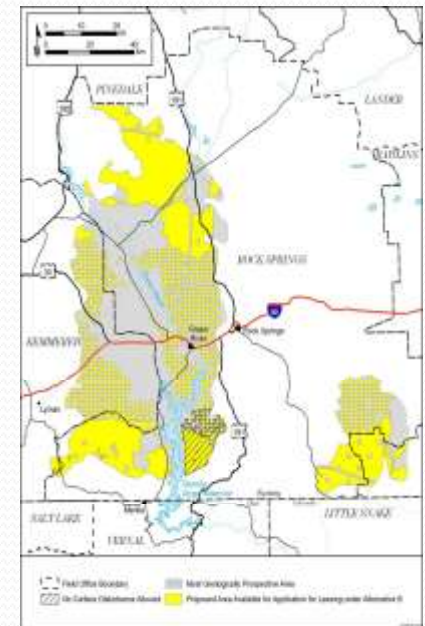
- **Oil Shale No Action Alternative**



Colorado – 359,798
acres



Utah – 630,971 acres



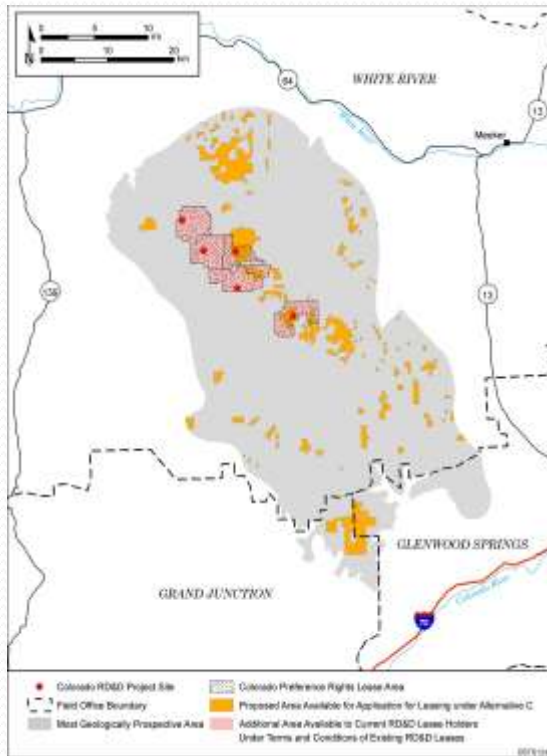
Wyoming – 1,000,453 acres

2008 Alternative C – Oil Shale

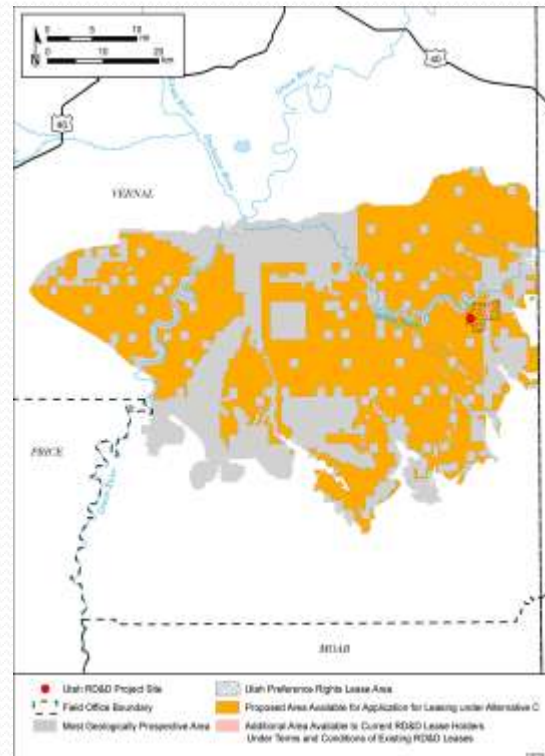
Oil Shale

- Designates ~830,000 acres of land as available for application to lease for commercial oil shale development.
- Additional lands would be excluded.
 - Lands where development would be inconsistent with existing Land Use Plan resource management goals and objectives.
- Identify data gaps that must be filled in order to support future NEPA analysis.
- Split estate lands in the Hill Creek Extension of the Uinta and Ouray Reservation are available future leasing consideration.
- A qualitative analysis of the impacts is presented. BLM made the assumption that the oil shale would be produced using 3 technologies – an underground mining, a surface mining and an in-situ operation.

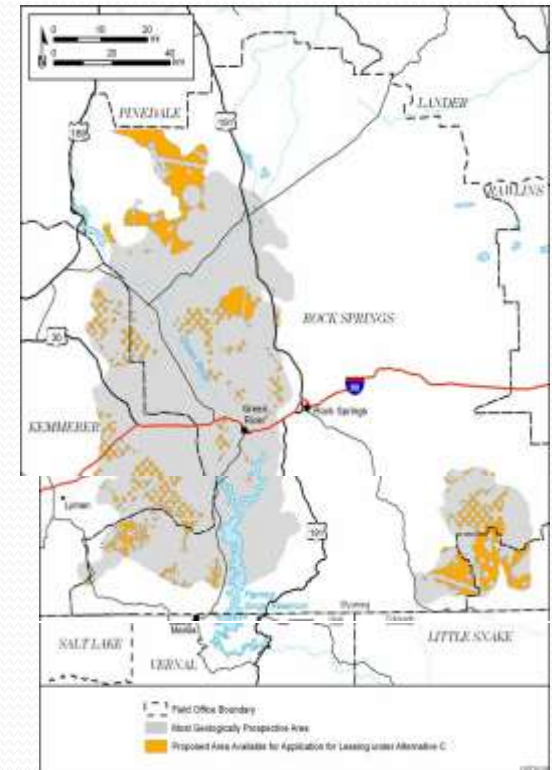
2008 Alternative C



Colorado-40,325 acres

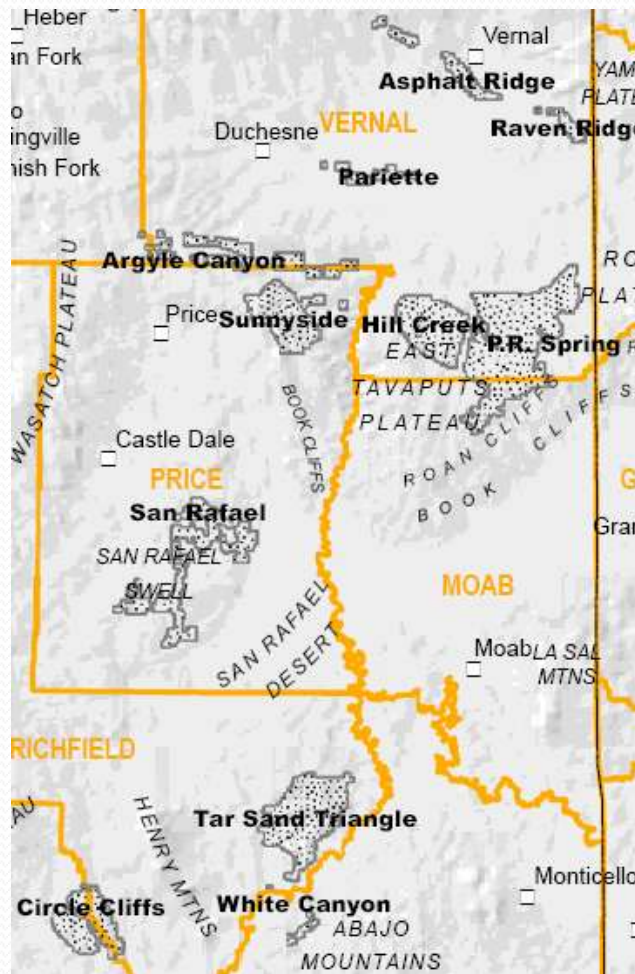


Utah-490,460 acres



Wyoming-299,511 acres

Defining the Tar Sands Leasing Study Area



- Eleven designated Special Tar Sand Areas (STSAs).
- Study area focuses on evaluating leasing within each of the STSAs except
 - within the GSENM (Circle Cliffs STSA); and
 - within Capitol Reef and Canyonlands NPs (Circle Cliffs and Tar Sand Triangle STSAs).
- Existing CHLs in P.R. Springs and Pariette STSAs.
- Pending conversion leases in Circle Cliffs, Tar Sand Triangle, and P.R. Springs STSAs.

Tar Sands –2008 Approved Land Use Plan Amendments

Final OSTP PEIS

2-49



Tar Sands No Action Alternative

Utah-431,224 acres

2008 Alternative C



Utah-229,038 acres

PEIS Schedule

Draft PEIS	
BLM and Cooperating Agency Review	October 7-November 1, 2011
Draft PEIS Released	December 30, 2011
90-day Comment period	December 30, 2011-March 31, 2012
Preliminary Final PEIS	
BLM Review	August 31-September 14, 2012
Final PEIS Released	October 26, 2012
30-day Protest Period	October 26-November 26, 2012
Governor's Consistency Review	October 26-December 26, 2012
Record of Decision	December 31, 2012

For More Information

- The project website : <http://blm.gov/st5c>
- BLM's Project Manager

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